

Applicant Name Loma County Water and Sewer District
Project Name Loma Water System Improvement Project Phase 1

Project Abstract

The Loma County Water and Sewer District provides water to the unincorporated community of Loma and 71 rural water users in northern Chouteau County. The Loma water system draws its water from the Marias River, and then treats the water through a package water treatment plant. The system has approximately 119 miles of various sizes of distribution lines. The sizes range from six inches to one inch, with 42% of the lines being one inch. Fifty-seven percent of the system utilizes glue joints, with the remainder using gasketed joints.

An engineering firm completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the district's water system. The report showed that the water treatment plant is capable of meeting the current surface water treatment rule and is providing good quality water to its users. However, the engineer has identified several deficiencies which will hamper the district's ability to meet future Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations. Currently, the district is a member of the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority and will need to decide if they will participate in the Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System. If they elect to join, then the treatment plant improvements are not necessary.

In the past four years, the district had over 307 repairs with 99% directly connected to polyvinylchloride (PVC) glue joint failure. The estimated leakage range is 100 to 250 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) or 26,000 to 52,000 gallons per day. It is estimated that 20% to 40% of the water is unaccounted for with the current system.

The district is proposing to phase in the improvements, with the first phase addressing 90% of the one-inch glued joint distribution lines and installation of water meters.